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ing, manufacturing, or producing concerns, and transport the products thereof, provided only that such products be sold prior to presentation for shipment; and to maintain relations with mining, manufacturing, or producing concerns, through stock ownership, or interchange of directors or officials, or otherwise, which enable such railway to carry on operations in virtual violation of the law" comes as a surprise to many of us and presents a problem, which, if existent, as appears by the author's consideration of the matter, must be remedied by adequate legislation. The author presents an amendment which merits attention as a proper solution of the problem.

W. W. G.

American Government and Majority Rule. By Edward Elliott, Ph.D. Princeton University Press. 1916, pp. viii, 175.

In this attractive little volume we find a thoughtful and interesting discussion of the democratic theory of government and its practical working as exemplified in the United States. Doctor Elliott, who has been Professor of Politics at Princeton, has had the skill to present ideas which, as they seem unhackneyed but yet carefully developed, form a real contribution to a subject that has called forth many works of varying usefulness.

The subject is quite properly treated from the historical point of view. We see first the original somewhat inconsistent attitude of our forefathers, who, believing in the sovereignty of the people and yet distrusting government as an engine of tyranny, established a complicated system of checks and balances for the protection of the minority and demanded that each constitution should contain a Bill of Rights; and we see how the democratic theory is developed, until now the government is considered the agent, not the master, of the people and many new devices are originated to assist in attaining the end that the majority shall rule. Doctor Elliott's own conclusion is that a democratic government to be effective must be simple, and of the new devices he favors the commission form of government and the short ballot, while he feels that the initiative and the referendum are a step away from simplicity in governmental agencies. In elaborating upon this theme that the form of government should be made as simple as possible, he makes illuminating suggestions as to the reformation of our state governments: namely, that the administrative officials of the state should not be elected but

should form a cabinet appointed by the executive, that there should be but one house of the state legislature, that the executive through his cabinet acting as heads of departments should have the right to frame, introduce and advocate bills, and that the choice of representatives in the legislative body should not be restricted to residents of the district to be represented. It would seem doubtful whether this last change, which is most strenuously urged by our author, would not accomplish all the results he desires in allowing an expert lawmaker, who represents the people rather than a locality, to continue in office indefinitely, unless the various representatives are elected at different times. Otherwise the removal of the residence restriction would be of little avail to the defeated legislator, who would be compelled in any event to remain quiet until the next general election, at which time he might well seek office in his own district again. Professor Elliott seems, however, to contemplate a general election of executive and legislature at the same time.

It would have added to the usefulness of the work had the author added citation of authorities to such statements as are not his personal conclusions. An excellent bibliography is, however, appended. In the limits of a short review it is impossible to point out all the suggestive ideas contained in a work like this, but one of the many must suffice. After stating that the most encouraging feature of American democracy is the presence of a spirit which, in spite of repeated defeats, renews the battle for majority rule, while the most discouraging feature is the successive failure of each new institution or arrangement to accomplish such rule, he suggests that possibly it is our viewpoint which needs correction and that instead of looking for some means for the final solution of the difficulty, we should see in the constant struggle itself the real nature of Democracy.

C. E. C.